



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the
House Committee on Federal & State Affairs
Opponent for HB 2201 • March 8, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2201, a proposal to create an online database of public contracts while adding new restrictions to the contract process. Under HB 2201, counties would fall under the definition of agencies in Section 1(b)(1). The implication of HB 2201, is that counties would have to implement a number of additional processes before executing a contract. In addition to these steps, there are added hearings and data-management requisites that would add time and cost to the delivery of local services. These are burdensome changes, and KAC opposes HB 2201 on behalf of our member counties.

The new contract steps include a different cost analysis under Sections 2(8)(d)(2) and 5(a); new KOMA requirements under Section 2(8)(d)(3); expanded staffing to cover Section 3(a), and new contract terms in compliance with Section 3(b)(5)(c) and Section 4(b). These changes would affect the ability of counties to contract and do so with a sizable cost. The requirements will demand even deeper analysis by attorneys and further delays to accommodate the analysis and KOMA requirements. Additionally, there will be data-management considerations that will also add cost. The state agencies provided a number of specific updates on the added costs of the bill at the state level. Our counties would suffer similarly under the change with more cost to taxpayers.

Until this bill arrived, we had not previously heard of any complaints regarding county contracts. If there is an issue for our municipalities to address, we are happy to discuss the issue and analyze solutions. But HB 2201 broadly attacks the matter with little regard to time or cost. We oppose this bill on behalf of our counties and ask this committee to do the same.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nathan Eberline', is written over a large, faint, light-gray watermark of the word 'KANSAS' in the background.

Nathan Eberline
Kansas Association of Counties